

REMARKS

Claims 17 - 35 are pending. Claim 17 has been amended.

In response to the July 22, 2005 Restriction Requirement, applicants elect, without traverse, for continued prosecution the Species 1 claims (claims which read on Figs. 3A - 3H). The applicants believe that claims 17 - 19 and 24 - 35 read on the Species 1 figures, i.e., Figures 3A - 3H. As requested by the Examiner, applicants have included reference numerals, Figures, or descriptions to support identifying the recited limitations of representative claim 29. Claim 17 recites similar limitations to claim 29 and these reference numerals, figures or descriptions apply with equal force to claim 17.

Claim 29 recites:

A method for fabricating a probe pin, comprising:
forming a silicon pin (23) rising in the vertical direction by crystal growth, the silicon pin having a tip, a side, and a bottom (Fig. 3A) ;
coating the tip and the side of the silicon pin with a first metal (24) forming an insulating layer (25) to fix the silicon pin so that the tip of the silicon pin projects from a top face of the insulating layer (25) and that a bottom face of the insulating layer (25) aligns with the bottom of the silicon pin (Figs 3B and 3C);
covering the bottom face of the insulating layer and the bottom of the silicon pin with a second metal (26) (Fig. 3E);
heating the silicon pin, the insulating layer, and the first and second metals all together at a temperature above an alloy-forming temperature of silicon and the second metal and below an alloy-forming temperature of silicon and the first metal (Fig. 3F);
removing a non-reacted second metal (26) that has not been reacted with the silicon pins during the heating of the silicon pin (Fig. 3G);
and
forming a third metal on the bottom of the silicon pin, from which the non-reacted second metal has been removed (Fig. 3H).

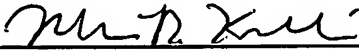
Claim 17 has been amended for form.

An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

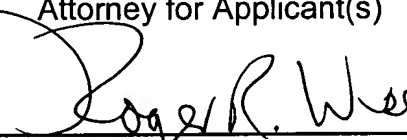
Respectfully submitted,

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